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APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/102,321

FILING DATE: September 28, 1998

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BOX: PROVISIONAL APPLICATION

Date: September 28, 1998

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Sir:

Enclosed please find a **PROVISIONAL APPLICATION** for United States Patent as identified below:

Inventor/s (ALL inventors, including NAME, plus city and state of RESIDENCE for each):


Oded KAFRI, Beersheva, Israel

Title: **METHOD OF SENDING AND FOWARDING E-MAIL MESSAGES TO A TELEPHONE**

including the items indicated:

1. Specification Pages 7; 4 claims: 2 indep.; 2 dep.; 0 multiple dep.
2. ☒ Drawings, 1 sheet (Fig1- Fig.2)
3. ☒ A check in the amount of \$150.00 in payment of the filing fee is transmitted herewith.

PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION COVER SHEET


S. Péter Ludwig, Esq.

Reg. No. 25,351

ENDPASELO

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A METHOD OF SENDING AND FORWARDING E-MAIL MESSAGES TO A TELEPHONE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method of sending voice messages,
5 faxes between remotely located telephones, utilizing e-mail properties.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Forwarding of e-mail to a fax is well known and an example can be seen
in the functions of software such as Microsoft's "Outlook" application. Forwarding
of e-mail to a telephone is also known, such as the Mailpush service provided by
10 several cellular telephone companies, for example, as described on their web site
(<http://www.mailpush.com>). In this method a server computer checks the e-mail
box of each registered client and forwards the e-mail to the mailbox owner's
telephone and reads the text through the voice modem or CTI card (for example
Dialogic's Proline/2V or Dialogic/4, Dialogic Corporation, 1115 Route Ten,
15 Parsippany, N.J. 070-4596, USA).

A voice message can be transmitted as an attached wave file that can
be played to the telephone directly, or be converted to text using a Speech-to-text
engine such as commercially available from IBM and Lemout & Hauspie). The
receiver of the e-mail can record a reply wave file through the telephone and use
20 the reply function of the e-mail software to send a reply via the telephone.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide a method of sending and receiving voice messages, and faxes, between telephones which are at remote locations, which overcomes the limitations and disadvantages of prior sorting devices.

The invention utilizes e-mail properties for automatically forwarding to a fax, e-mail or a telephone. In one embodiment, an e-mail is sent to a remote station and automatically forwarded to a telephone or a fax machine, as desired by the sender.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be understood and appreciated more fully from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the appended drawings in which:

6 Fig. 1 is a schematic illustration of inter-city communication between remote locations; and

Fig. 2 is a schematic illustration of a Voice Proxy Server according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

Reference is now made to Fig. 1, which is a schematic illustration of inter-city communication according, according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

5 As illustrated in Fig. 1, suppose that there are two computers, one located at city A and one at city B, which is at a long distance area code from city A. A person in city A would like to send a fax, or a voice message, to a telephone in city B. Instead of messages being sent from city A to city B via a long-distance carrier, an e-mail message is sent to computer B which instructs computer B to
10 forward the message to a telephone or fax in city B.

A special e-mail form is developed such that it includes two addresses: The first is the e-mail address of computer B, the second is a telephone or fax number of the addressee at location B. In addition, one may include a password or any other means of restricting regular senders from using this service.

15 In Computer B, a forwarder is constructed that checks whether any incoming e-mail contains an additional telephone or fax address, and whether the sender is allowed by the provider of the service to forward the e-mail.

If so, the e-mail software calls to a telephone (a local call), receives the answer and delivers it back, via e-mail, to computer A, from computer B.

20 A further embodiment of the invention enables station B to call any telephone. In order to do so, an address book containing telephone numbers is constructed. Moreover, several remote stations (A) may call the receiving remote station B which handles the incoming e-mail traffic.

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In another aspect of the invention computers A and B form part of a LAN or WAN network with computer B acting as a proxy server for a voice.

Reference is now made to Fig. 2 which is a schematic description of a Voice Proxy Server. The sequence of operations for sending messages using the Voice Proxy Server may be described as follows:

1. The Client prepares messages on his computer, chooses recipients and sends the messages

2. Messages go to the MAPI (Message Application Program Interface) Spooler which checks address types and calls the corresponding transport provider. In the case of a T-Mail address type it calls the transport provider which:

a) extracts the message from the MAPI message store and converts it to the Voice Proxy's own message format and

b) makes a connection to the Voice Proxy Message Store server and sends the message through the network's pipe.

3. To receive new mail, Voice Proxy's transport provider connects to the Voice Proxy Message Store server, checks its own mailbox and gets new messages through the network pipe and stores them in the MAPI receiving folder (Inbox).

The Voice Proxy - Telephone server connects to the Voice Proxy Message Store server, checks outgoing messages queue, gets messages for each detected phone line.

Then the Proxy - Telephone server extracts information regarding the phone destination from the message's recipient table (phone number), message body (plain text), text and wave attachments, and makes a phone call.

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Messages are played through the wave device associated with TAPI (Telephone Application Program Interface) phone line either:

- a. for Wave attachments - directly using wave API (Application Program Interface); or
- b. Text - using Text-to-Speech engine.

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The addressee's reply to wave file is then recorded and a reply message created with a wave attachment. The file is sent to the Voice Proxy Message Store Server, which places this reply message in the appropriate mailbox.

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Claims

1. A method of sending an e-mail message from a computer to another computer, comprising the steps of:

preparing said e-mail message and attaching forwarding

5 information thereto;

sending said e-mail message to a proxy server;

said proxy server extracting said forwarding information from e-mail message; and

calling the addressee's number.

- 10 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said forwarding information contains a facsimile or telephone number..

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said server comprises a Computer Telephone Integration (CTI) card or a voice modem.

4. A forwarder comprising:

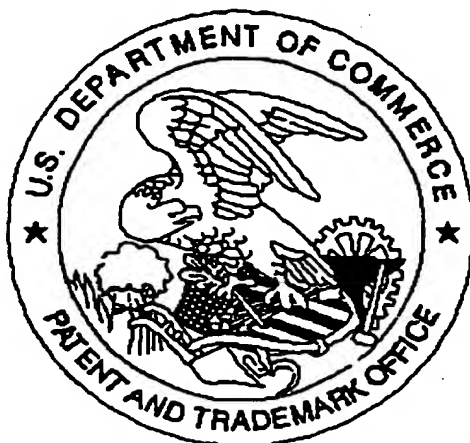
15 means for extracting forwarding information from an e-mail message;

means for verifying the sender, and

means for forwarding said e-mail message to the addressee of said forwarding information.

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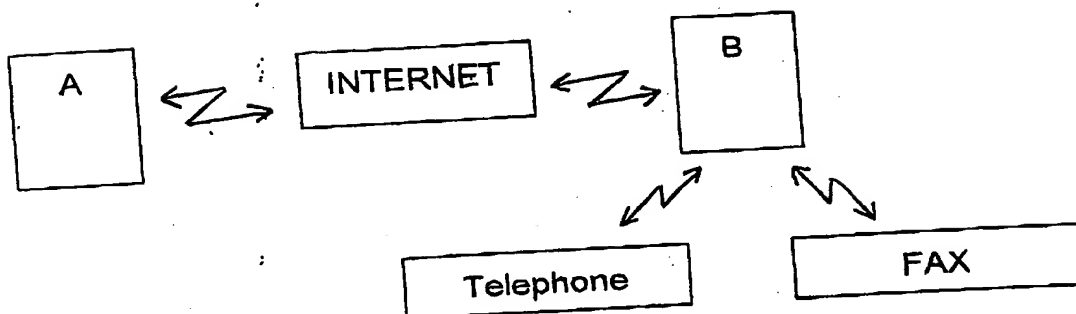


FIG. 1

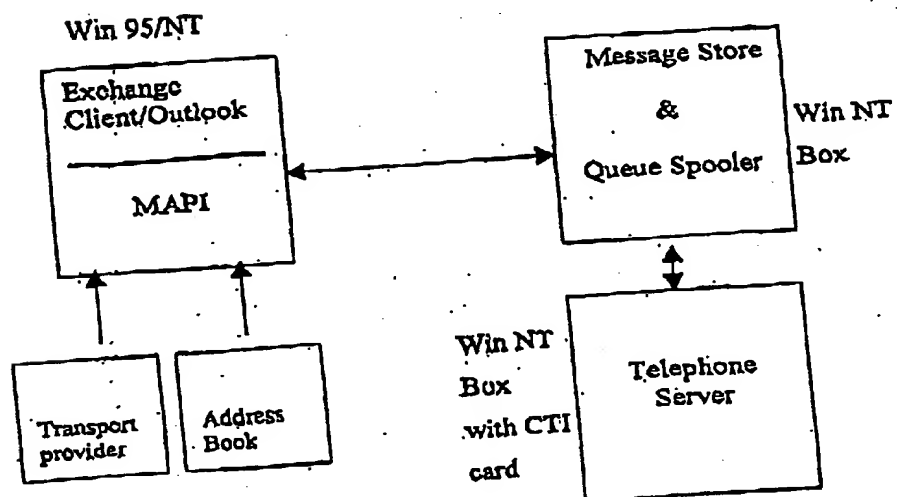


FIG. 2

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